

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the present application to place the application, as a whole, into *prima facie* condition for allowance at this time. Applicant submits that substantial care has been taken to avoid the introduction of any new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,148,564 issued to Reder (hereinafter the '564 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,011,611 issued to Lederman (hereinafter the '611 patent). Solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without in any way conceding to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 19 into independent claim 1 and all associated dependent claims, including claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17-18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejection of claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 has been overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '564 patent in view of the '611 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,780,921 issued to Lahn et al. (hereinafter the '921 patent). Solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without in any way conceding to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 19 into independent claim 1 and all associated dependent claims, including claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejection of claim 9 has been overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '564

patent in view of the '611 patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,375,278 issued to Van Winkle (hereinafter the '278 patent). Solely for purposes of expediting prosecution of the present application, and without in any way conceding to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 19 into independent claim 1 and all associated dependent claims, including claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejection of claim 16 has been overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,184 issued to George (hereinafter the '184 patent) in view of the '611 patent and further in view of the '921 patent. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-20. In particular, the Examiner purports that intermediate component 22 of the outer liner disclosed in the '184 patent is structurally the same as intermediate liner 47 of the present application. To be sure, in the present application, as is expressly claimed, "at least one intermediate liner [is] positioned between the inner liner and the outer liner." This is clearly not the case with intermediate component 22 of the '184 patent inasmuch as the '184 patent teaches, at the most, a two liner system, thereby excluding any possibility of an intermediate liner as taught and disclosed in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's basis for rejection of claims 1-15 and 17-20 has been overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

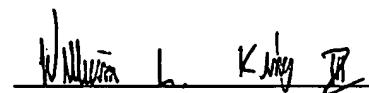
In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in *prima facie* condition for allowance at the present time. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and passage toward issuance thereof.

If any other charges or fees must be paid or credited in connection with this communication, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-2131.

Respectfully submitted,

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